



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Monday December 31, 2007

Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Closes Southbound Lanes of Interstate 17 near Stoneman Lake Due to Fatal Collision and Hazardous Material Spill

On Monday December 31, 2007 at approximately 4:05am there was a one vehicle fatal collision involving a Semi Tractor Trailer in the southbound lanes of Interstate 17 at milepost 310 (near Stoneman Lake).

The Commercial Vehicle carried numerous 55 plastic gallon drums of a corrosive material. Many of these drums are scattered throughout the highway and into the nearby terrain. Hazardous Material Teams are on the scene along with a crew from the Arizona Department of Transportation and Investigators from the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

At this time DPS anticipates the southbound lanes of I-17 in that area will be closed for the next six hours. Motorists coming south from Flagstaff are advised to use Highway 89A through Sedona or use Interstate 40 eastbound to State Route 87 through Payson.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

Press Contact: Bart Graves, bgraves@azdps.gov

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Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | bgraves@azpds.gov